Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-05 /016 R

DRAFTED BY DOD/ISA:RADM THOMAS-NEA/IAI:WBSMITHII:JD
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
PM:PCLAPP
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
DEFENSE/ISA:RADM THOMAS

------086077 230317Z /75

R 221811Z NOV 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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FOR AMBASSADORS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA (MCGIFFERT, DAVID), MASS, MPOL, JO, EG, IS, US

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST TRIP OF DEFENSE ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCGIFFERT

REF: SECDEF MSG CITE 7397 DTG 181554Z NOV 77

1. REFTEL PROVIDED DETAILS OF PLANNED MIDDLE EAST VISIT OF DOD/ISA ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCGIFFERT. YOU ARE AWARE OF ROLE OF ISA AND IMPORTANCE TO OUR POLITICO-MILITARY POLICIES OF EXCELLENT COORDINATION WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN RELEVANT AREAS OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND ISA. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCGIFFERT SHOULD HAVE WIDEST POSSIBLE EXPOSURE TO VIEWS OF APPROPRIATE SENIOR OFFICIALS IN HOST GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS CONFIDENTIAL

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OPPORTUNITY FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU AND YOUR SENIOR COLLEAGUES IN EMBASSY.

2. IN ADDITION TO POLITICO-MILITARY ISSUES, MCGIFFERT WILL BE INTERESTED IN WIDE RANGE OF BILATERAL AND FOREIGN POLICY SUBJECTS. HE DESIRES MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW KEY GEOGRAPHY/TERRAIN AND WOULD LIKE TO HOLD FACILITY

TOURS AND CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES TO MINIMUM CONSISTENT WITH PROTOCOL.

- 3. FOR AMMAN. IF YOU BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE, MCGIFFERT WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH KING HUSSEIN, IN ADDITION TO OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS.
- 4. FOR TEL AVIV. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSIONS WITH DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN, WE SUGGEST SESSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN AS WELL AS OTHER OFFICIALS YOU MAY DEEM APPROPRIATE. TOUR OF GOLAN, WEST BANK, AND SINAI WOULD BE MOST BENEFICIAL. SINCE OTHER DOD OFFICIALS WILL PROBABLY BE SEEKING VISITS TO TANK AND AIRCRAFT FACILITIES IN EARLY 1978, AND IN VIEW OF LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE TO MCGIFFERT IN ISRAEL, SUCH ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE PURSUED FOR HIM, ALTHOUGH ANY ISRAELI OFFER OF SUCH A VISIT WHICH YOU REGARD AS ESPECIALLY VALUABLE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO WASHINGTON FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.
- 5. FOR CAIRO. WHILE NO PARTICULAR MILITARY MATTERS ARE CURRENTLY PENDING, WE REQUEST THAT YOU ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH GENERAL GAMASY ON MILITARY SITUATION AND WITH MFA OFFICIALS. TOUR OF CANAL ZONE TO INCLUDE SELECTED EAST BANK LOCATIONS IS DESIRED IF FEASIBLE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PERSONNEL TRAVEL, VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 22-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE279584
Document Source: Concept Concept Unique Concept Con

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: NEA/IAİ:WBSMITHII:JD

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770434-0160

Format: TEL

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771130/aaaaazcl.tel

Line Count: 94 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 347c2e14-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 26-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:**

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a SAS ID: 491094 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MIDDLE EAST TRIP OF DEFENSE ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCGIFFERT

TAGS: OTRA, MASS, MPOL, JO, EG, IS, US, DOD, (MCGIFFERT, DAVID)
To: AMMAN CAIRO MULTIPLE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/347c2e14-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009